

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF755]

**Pacific Whiting Treaty; Advisory Panel; Call for Nominations**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; call for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is soliciting nominations for appointments to the United States Advisory Panel (AP) established in the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting. Nominations are being sought to fill at least one potential position on the AP. Term lengths are 4 years, and appointees will be eligible for reappointment at the expiration of the terms.

**DATES:** Nominations must be received by June 10, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit nominations by the following method:

- Email: [frank.lockhart@noaa.gov](mailto:frank.lockhart@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frank Lockhart, (206) 526–6142.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background***Pacific Whiting Treaty Committees*

The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006 (Pacific Whiting Act) (16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*), implements the 2003 Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting (Pacific Whiting Treaty). The Pacific Whiting Treaty establishes the AP and among other provisions, the Pacific Whiting Act provides for United States representation on the AP.

The AP advises the Joint Management Committee on bilateral Pacific whiting management issues. Seven individuals currently represent the United States on the AP, and nominations for at least one individual are solicited through this notice.

Members appointed to the U.S. sections of the AP will be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of Title 5 (16 U.S.C. 7008). NMFS anticipates that at least one meeting of the AP may be held annually. These meetings will be held virtually or in person in the United States or Canada. AP members will need a valid U.S. passport.

The Pacific Whiting Act also states that while performing their appointed duties, members “other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall not be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, except for purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28” (16 U.S.C. 7008).

Information on the Pacific Whiting Treaty, including current committee members can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/laws-and-policies/pacific-hake-whiting-treaty>.

*Nominations*

Nomination packages for appointments should include:

- (1) The name of the applicant or nominee, position they are being nominated for and a description of his/her interest in Pacific whiting; and
- (2) A statement of background and/or description of how the following qualifications are met.

*Advisory Panel Qualifications*

AP member nominees must be knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore Pacific whiting resource; and must not be employees of the United States government (16 U.S.C. 7005). Nominees currently active as vessel skippers are encouraged.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

Dated: May 7, 2026.

**Kelly Denit,**

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026–09315 Filed 5–8–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF728]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. For agenda details, see

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. Connection information will be posted to the Council’s calendar prior to the meeting at <https://www.mafmc.org>.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331; <https://www.mafmc.org>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Advisory Panel will meet via webinar on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting is for the Advisory Panel to develop fishery performance reports for all fisheries in the MSB Fishery Management Plan (chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, Atlantic mackerel, longfin squid, and butterfish). The Council uses the fishery performance reports to inform MSB specifications. The Council will be reviewing previously adopted 2027 specifications for chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, and Atlantic mackerel, and setting new 2027–2029 specifications (and possibly other management measures) for longfin squid and butterfish.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526–5251 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 6, 2026.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF668]

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Mal Coombs Stairway Replacement Project in Shelter Cove, California**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the Mal Coombs Stairway Replacement Project in Shelter Cove, California.

**DATES:** This authorization is effective for 1 year from the date of notification by the IHA-holder, not to exceed 1 year from the date of issuance (May 5, 2026).

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as a list of the references cited in this document, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-construction-activities>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Fleming, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**MMPA Background and Determinations**

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Among the exceptions is section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) which directs the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking by harassment of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed IHA.

Specifically, NMFS shall issue an IHA if it finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). Further, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking and other “means of effecting the least [practicable] adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of

similar significance, and on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to here as “mitigation”). NMFS must also prescribe requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The definitions of key terms, such as “take,” “harassment,” and “negligible impact,” can be found in the MMPA and the NMFS’ implementing regulations (see 16 U.S.C. 1362; 50 CFR 216.103).

On March 27, 2026, a notice of NMFS’ proposal to issue an IHA to BLM for take of marine mammals incidental to the Mal Coombs Stairway Replacement Project in Shelter Cove, California was published in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 14816). In that notice, NMFS indicated the estimated numbers, type, and methods of incidental take proposed for each species or stock, as well as the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures that would be required should the IHA be issued. The **Federal Register** notice also included analysis to support NMFS’ preliminary conclusions and determinations that the IHA, if issued, would satisfy the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA for issuance of the IHA. The **Federal Register** notice included web links to a draft IHA for review, as well as other supporting documents.

No substantive comments were received during the public comment period. There are no changes to the specified activity, the species taken, the proposed numbers, type, or methods of take, or the mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures in the proposed IHA notice. No new information that would change any of the preliminary analyses, conclusions, or determinations in the proposed IHA notice has become available since that notice was published, and therefore, the preliminary analyses, conclusions, and determinations included in the proposed IHA are considered final.

**National Environmental Policy Act**

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NAO 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we

have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Endangered Species Act**

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency ensures that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

**Authorization**

Accordingly, consistent with the requirements of section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA, NMFS has issued an IHA to BLM for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to Mal Coombs Stairway Replacement Project in Shelter Cove, California.

Dated: May 6, 2026.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XF502]

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities’ Ward Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Ketchikan, Alaska**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; proposed incidental harassment authorizations; request for comments on proposed authorizations and possible renewals.